IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A regulating system for regulating, with respect to a reference level, the amplitude level of an amplified signal produced by an amplifier, said regulating system comprising:

attenuation circuitry for generating an attenuated signal from said amplified signal according to a programmable attenuation factor, ~~and~~

conversion circuitry for converting said attenuated signal in order to generate an output signal for comparison with said reference level, wherein said conversion circuitry generates said output signal with a level proportional to the square of the effective value of said attenuated signal.

a comparator for forming a difference signal between said output signal and said reference signal; and

means for directly controlling the amplitude level of the amplified signal using the difference signal.

2. (Currently amended) A regulating system as claimed in claim 1, wherein: said attenuation means comprise a network of resistances defined by a set of π ~~pi~~-structures connected in series, each node of the π-structures being connected to a switch for defining said programmable attenuation factor.

3. (Previously presented) A regulating system as claimed in claim 2, wherein the switches are activated by a command word delivered by a digital bus.

4. (Previously presented)A regulating system as claimed in claim 1, comprising a voltage comparator including an adjustable voltage/current converter, for generating an output current signal I_{AGC} being proportional to the difference between said output signal and said reference level.

5. (Previously presented) An integrated circuit comprising a regulating system as claimed in claim 1.

6. (Previously presented) A tuner comprising a regulating system as claimed in claim 1.